

The future success of UNIFIL will depend on the forbearance and goodwill of all the parties involved — as, indeed, on the extent to which current and potential contributors to UNIFIL can plan their participation.

States that contribute contingents to peacekeeping forces are bound to be influenced by their perceptions of the kind of co-operation these troops receive from the parties. They will be influenced, too, by the kind of support these operations receive from the rest of the membership, especially the permanent members of the Security Council. I note with regret that two permanent members have said they will not help pay for UNIFIL.

My country is unusually sensitive to the need for the UN to improve its advance-planning arrangements for peacekeeping. It was only with considerable dislocation of our own requirements that we were able to supply specialized personnel for UNIFIL, and then only for six months. I urge all member states to consider again the earmarking of personnel, services and equipment for this kind of contingency. If the Secretary-General is to carry out the instructions given to him by the Security Council, which are usually based on the principle of equitable geographical distribution, he must have the widest possible freedom to select the resources required. The lack of readily-available communications and logistics personnel is particularly regrettable. It is more than time that the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations made firm recommendations on these questions.

Earlier this year, I had occasion to assess the situation in Cyprus at first hand. My visit confirmed my view that the parties to the conflict ought to be able to settle their differences by negotiation.

Canada has a direct interest in a solution of the Cyprus problem. Canadian contingents have been in Cyprus, as part of the UN force, for 14 years. Some of our soldiers are now doing their fourth tour of duty on the island. Many Canadians are beginning to feel that the continued presence of the force, instead of paving the way for a solution, may be a factor in impeding it.

The history of Cyprus as an independent and sovereign member of the international community has been troubled. I believe that no useful purpose would be served in drawing up a ledger of responsibility for events that now lie in the past. What the international community has a right to expect of the people of Cyprus is that they use the resourcefulness and resilience they share with their Mediterranean neighbours, and such goodwill as still obtains, to draw up a new blueprint for their national existence in which all the parties will see their interests tolerably guaranteed. Given the legacy of the past, this will not be an easy enterprise. Nor will it, in my judgment, be achievable at all unless the process of negotiation between the two communities is made continuous. Otherwise the momentum that has at one point or another been built up will inevitably be dissipated. The good offices of the Secretary-General are available to the parties. I would urge them to take full and prompt advantage of them.

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